

must never stop moving forward, we must also never forget. The victims of 9/11 are not forgotten.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE FOR MASTER-AT-ARMS PETTY OFFICER FIRST CLASS JOHN DOUANGDARA

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Master-At-Arms Petty Officer First Class John Douangdara who died August 6th in Wardak Province, Afghanistan. Petty Officer Douangdara was a patriot and a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice ensuring the security of our Nation. He will be greatly missed.

Petty Officer Douangdara was a highly decorated combat veteran with numerous awards, including two Bronze Star Medals with Valor, Purple Heart Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal with Valor, Army Commendation Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, two Presidential Unit Citations, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and numerous other personal and unit decorations.

Petty Officer Douangdara is survived by his family, friends, and teammates.

His Nation owes Petty Officer Douangdara an enormous debt of gratitude. We are honored to have had such an exemplary American fighting for his country.

I wish to extend my condolences to Petty Officer Douangdara's family, friends, and teammates and hope they continue to find solace in his lasting impact on his grateful Nation. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

**9/11 COMMEMORATION CEREMONY
REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY &
MEMORIAL READINGS**

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, September 11, 2001, is a day forever etched into the memory of the American people. On that day 10 years ago, over 3,000 innocent people, including nine Texans, died during the attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and aboard Flight 93. We gather now to honor both their memory and the sacrifices of their families as we read from those who saw and studied what happened during and after the attacks. We also renew our commitment to honoring the sacrifice and service of the citizens who risked their lives to help all those impacted on that terrible day. Firefighters, police officers, and first responders saved thousands of victims, and nearly 350 rescue personnel gave their lives in the service of others. It is because of their bravery that many of us knew 9/11 would not be the downfall of our great nation, despite what those who attacked us intended.

While 9/11 is a day of great solemnity, it is also a moment of pride. Our reaction as a country to those events—both during the

events and afterward—reveals much about us as a people. Our enemies thought they could break our spirit and crush our will, but they failed to realize our resolve and resilience. As President George Bush said only days later, "America today is on bended knee, in prayer for the people whose lives were lost here, for the workers who work here, for the families that mourn." They sought to divide us, but they mistook the strength of our convictions for the inability to act and the wisdom of liberty for frailty of arms. And they certainly failed to understand the breadth of our unity and the depth of our commitment to freedom both here and around the world.

As we look back on the 10 years since the attacks, we are reminded that the United States still faces enemies who spread fear and hate through terrorism and brutality. Congress, the Presidency, and the federal government have an obligation and duty to protect our nation. We have made great strides since that terrible day, and together we will make more as Irving and her communities work together to support their American brothers and sisters.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE FOR CHIEF PETTY OFFICER SPECIAL WARFARE OPERATOR STEPHEN MATTHEW MILLS

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Petty Officer Special Warfare Operator Stephen Matthew Mills who died August 6th in Wardak Province, Afghanistan. Chief Mills was a patriot and a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice ensuring the security of our nation. He will be greatly missed.

Chief Mills was a highly decorated combat veteran with numerous awards, including three Bronze Star Medals with Valor, Purple Heart Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal with Valor, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with Valor, three Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, two Combat Action Ribbons, two Presidential Unit Citations, two Meritorious Unit Commendations, Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Commendation, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and numerous other personal and unit decorations.

Chief Mills is survived by his loving family, friends, and teammates.

His nation owes Chief Mills an enormous debt of gratitude. We are honored to have had such an exemplary American fighting for his country.

I wish to extend my condolences to Chief Mills' family, friends, and teammates and hope they continue to find solace in his lasting impact on his grateful nation. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

9/11: FROM A DAY OF TRAGEDY TO
A TRIUMPH OF FREEDOM

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, like every American, I will never forget where I was on the morning of September 11, 2001. As a Member of Congress from Indiana, that day my duties took me to Capitol Hill and to sights and sounds I will never forget.

I witnessed the U.S. Capitol literally hemorrhaging with people running in every direction. I heard the deafening sounds of sirens all around and thunderous booms of military aircraft going supersonic at low altitude. And I saw the columns of mud-brown smoke billowing out of the Pentagon just across the Potomac River.

As the world watched the towers fall in New York City, I witnessed the aftermath of the first attack on our nation's capital since the War of 1812. It was a day when evil triumphed over good and the cunning plans of the enemies of freedom had their moment. They thought they had unleashed violence sufficient to cow a great nation but they were wrong.

What our enemies intended for harm gave birth to a season of national unity and a new generation of heroes. The unity and call to service appeared almost instantly.

At a time of great national division, it is hard to imagine today what Washington DC was like in the hours, weeks and months following September 11th, but the unity of that day did happen. I was there. I saw it.

In the swirl of events that morning, I knew that Congress would need to convene to provide the authority and resources for our national response. As Capitol Hill police officers urged me to leave the grounds, I asked where I could report for duty and was escorted to the office of the Chief of the Capitol Police where the combined leadership of the House and the Senate in both parties was huddled watching the events unfold on several television screens.

When I arrived in the room, the congressional leaders were standing apart, divided by party and by institutions, but as that fateful morning wore on, things changed. Faced with a merciless attack on our nation, the politics of the room dissolved. There were no Republicans in that room, there were no Democrats in that room, just Americans.

I watched as leaders set aside every divisive issue before the Congress and made plans to move resources and programs designed to meet the moment with bipartisan resolve. And that unity would animate the work of the Congress for months following the attack.

But the true legacy of 9-11 cannot be found among political leaders of the day, but in the citizen soldiers and public safety personnel who answered that day with courage and selflessness.

To the soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines who answered that day with resolve, who did what needed to be done without regard to their own safety, we owe our deepest gratitude. I have prayed with the families and wept at the funerals of Hoosiers who did not shrink from 9-11 but grew into heroes whose names will forever be engraved in the heart of a

grateful nation. To our police, fire and public safety personnel who ran in when others ran out, who braved the flames, who followed the leads and who took such actions as were necessary to bring us a decade free of another terrorist event on American soil belongs the credit for this day. This anniversary belongs to the fallen, their families and to all those whose diligence and tenacity brought safety to our families and justice to our enemies.

A common enemy forged common ground and a new generation of American heroes. Today, we rightly pause to remember those who fell on 9-11 and every day since in the War on Terror. But we also pause to celebrate those Americans who, by their service and sacrifice, have made this day of tragedy into a triumph of freedom.

9/11 COMMEMORATION AND EMERGENCY PERSONNEL REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, September 11, 2001, is a day forever etched into the memory of the American people. On that day 10 years ago, over 3,000 innocent people, including nine Texans, died during the attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and aboard Flight 93. We gather at the Southlake Baptist Church to honor both their memory and the sacrifices of their families. We also renew our commitment to honoring the sacrifice and service of the citizens who risked their lives to help all those impacted on that terrible day. Firefighters, police officers, and first responders saved thousands of victims, and nearly 350 rescue personnel gave their lives in the service of others. It is because of their bravery that many of us knew 9/11 would not be the downfall of our great nation, despite what those who attacked us intended. It is on their behalf that today we honor Police Corporal Randy Thomas and Paramedic Paul Cook.

While 9/11 is a day of great solemnity, it is also a moment of pride. Our reaction as a country to those events—both during the events and afterward—reveals much about us as a people. Our enemies thought they could break our spirit and crush our will, but they failed to realize our resolve and resilience. As President George Bush said only days later, “America today is on bended knee, in prayer for the people whose lives were lost here, for the workers who work here, for the families that mourn.” They sought to divide us, but they mistook the strength of our convictions for the inability to act and the wisdom of liberty for frailty of arms. And they certainly failed to understand the breadth of our unity and the depth of our commitment to freedom both here and around the world.

As we look back on the 10 years since the attacks, we are reminded that the United States still faces enemies who spread fear and hate through terrorism and brutality. Congress, the Presidency, and the Federal Government have an obligation and duty to protect our nation. We have made great strides since that terrible day, but there is still much to be done. With God’s Grace America will continue

to move forward, never forgetting the tragedy of 9/11 but also never forgetting the strength our fellow country men and women showed in our time of need.

ON THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 9/11 TERRORIST ATTACKS

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 391 and to honor the memory of the nearly 3,000 innocent Americans who lost their lives 10 years ago, in the attacks on September 11th, 2001. Together, as a nation, we grieved with the families and friends who lost loved ones. Then, together, we began to look forward.

Having had more than 150 constituents and friends murdered by al-Qaeda, I have spent much of the past 10 years with family members of the 9/11 victims. These family members do not need a decade or quarter-century mark to remember their loved ones. For them, each of the 3,652 passing days has been a day of remembrance.

Since that day we have made great progress in securing the Homeland. We created the Department of Homeland Security, and established a Director of National Intelligence to better coordinate the Intelligence Community and facilitate information sharing. Today we are safer.

There is still more that can, and should, be done. Ten years after 9/11 Congress has yet to follow through on some recommendations of the 9/11 Commission, including the call for consolidation of congressional jurisdiction of our homeland security efforts and the allocation of sufficient spectrum for the interoperable communications needs of our first responders.

Killing Osama bin Laden was a tremendous victory for us and all who oppose terrorism. Al Qaeda Central has been damaged, but the organization and its affiliates are as dedicated as they have been. They are working to radicalize and recruit individuals within our own country.

While we may be safer today than we were 10 years ago, we are still in great danger. Al-Qaeda has not given up. It has adapted; its affiliates have grown; it actively recruits from within our own country; and it continues to be an active enemy.

We must not allow ourselves to grow complacent. Although not on the same scale, we have been attacked since 9/11, with many plots thwarted by excellent law enforcement and intelligence work.

We must not forget the lessons we have learned. We must acknowledge how far we’ve come, but we must not forget that we still have far to go before al-Qaeda and its affiliates are defeated and our Homeland is once again safe from this enemy.

We must never forget what happened on 9/11. As we honor the lives of the victims and stand with their families, we also give our gratitude to the first responders who rushed to the rescue and to the men and women of our military and Intelligence Community who risked and, in many cases, gave their lives to keep America safe. In tribute to them, we must pledge to continue to do all that we possibly

can to ensure that similar attacks are never replicated.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF SAINT GEORGE SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SCHERERVILLE

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and enthusiasm that I congratulate Saint George Serbian Orthodox Church in Schererville, Indiana as its congregation joins together in celebration of its 100th Anniversary. The congregation, along with Parish Priest, Very Reverend Dobrivoje, and Parish President, Mr. Ray Vukas, will be celebrating this momentous milestone with a celebratory reception on Sunday, October 23, 2011, at the Halls of Saint George in Schererville, Indiana.

Saint George Serbian Orthodox Church in Schererville is a sister church of Saint George Serbian Orthodox Church in East Chicago, Indiana. The parish was established on October 30, 1911, when a small group of immigrants from Serbia joined together with the goal of preserving Serbian culture and religious tradition. That same year, they obtained the services of a full-time priest and elected their first executive board. The dedication ceremony took place on Saint George’s Day, May 6, 1912. Many of the Serbian families sacrificed and gave of their time to assist in building this tremendous place of worship. The church continued to grow, and in the 1920’s, a small hall and the parish house were built on the church property. In 1949, construction began on a new banquet hall/social center which was completed a year later. Saint George Serbian Orthodox Church became the second Serbian Church in Indiana following the church built in South Bend.

During its existence, Saint George Serbian Orthodox Church experienced many changes as its membership grew. These changes were not only physical changes to the church itself but also a religious schism within the Serbian Orthodox church that affected its followers. In 1963, a decision from Belgrade regarding the church structure resulted in years of turmoil that divided Serbian Americans and the Serbian Orthodox Church into two groups. By 1970, some of the parishioners who chose to remain under the mother church in Belgrade, Serbia purchased property in Schererville, Indiana for a new church to be built. Within one year, a hall was completed, and by 1980, the new church and parish home were finished. In 1992, the church reunified and what remained from the division were many churches throughout the area spreading Serbian Orthodoxy. The church in Schererville continued to grow, building a hall, a new church, a parish home and a new banquet hall in Schererville.

Saint George Serbian Orthodox Church continues to touch the lives of countless individuals through its compassionate service, especially to those in need. Over the years, the church has come to the aid of Serbian immigrants by providing food, shelter and assistance in finding employment. The church auxiliary group, Circle of Serbian Sisters, along with three other Circles of Serbian Sisters in Northwest Indiana, hold an annual fundraiser